

apital City Capers

The News Organ of The Capital City Squares



Member Club of the
I. A. G. S. D. C.

"If I Can Make It There. . ."

This year's IAGSDC Convention in New York City was a thrilling and exciting success.

All who attended had a ball (or two). Some random impressions—

- The Trail In Dance at Tracks called by Joe and Anne Uebelacker was an exciting and exhausting dancing appetizer to the full weekend of dancing that lay ahead. Michael and I danced in leather and lost two quarts of sweat apiece.
- It was wet and muggy when we arrived and it was rainy and muggy just before we left, but for most of the convention the weather was beautiful. The air conditioning at the Sheraton Center made the ballrooms actually cold—until you started dancing.
- The intensive Plus workshop called by Dayle Hodge

was very worthwhile for these two recent Plus graduates.

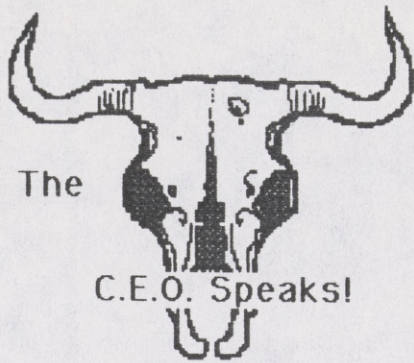
- The Grand March and opening ceremonies were colorful and fun. Michael and I have to learn the words to "O Canada!" for next year's convention in Vancouver. But see Michael's comment about our club's banner.
- We caught the tail end of the Honky Tonk Queen contest and it was a hoot.
- The Banquet was delicious (especially for hotel banquet food), the business part of the general meeting was sometimes moving, and the entertainment and demos were hilarious.
- I went to a meeting on telecommunications that was very exciting, but more on that later.
- Michael and I attended an Intro to A-1 workshop conducted by Mike DeSisto. I



New York Issue!

think I finally understand Chain Reaction.

- But the event that crowned the whole Convention for us was the Load the Boat event in the Hudson and East Rivers at the southern tip of Manhattan on the Fourth of July. Food, drink, and fireworks! Although we still think that the fireworks should have been set off around the Statue of Liberty, it was still quite a display. ✓



Hello Sun Worshippers!

It has been noted that I have this tendency to wax verbose at times. I shall attempt brevity (good luck).

Summer is here—with it, our Summer Schedule: dancing very other Tuesday at Joseph's Town and Country Inn (Bus. 80 at Howe). The dates run July 11 and 25 and August 8 and 22, so come on out! I do hope to see everyone—the last session we were able to get two squares plus a few. . . . Let's beat that.

July's Pot Luck is at Art Katz', a joint Prime 8's/ Capital City Squares Pool Party on July 22nd. We'll have details and flyers at the dance night (that oughta get ya there!). Skimpy swimsuits (or less) appreciated!

For those who can dance at Pillars on July 21st: we'll rehearse a couple of tips at dance night. We'll dance at about 8:15 or so on the 21st at the Sierra Inn—Bus. 80 at Fulton Avenue. The more the

merrier.

August 26th brings our new member Hoedown at Clunie Center (McKinley Park). We are gearing up for that now—it will escalate, and I do expect everyone to be there with a friend or two (or six!), so keep it in mind. We'll also be dancing at Faces a few times between now and then—everyone should try to dance at Faces at least once (more if possible). "Elaborations" will be given out in the near future. These dances at Pillars (and other groups) and at Faces are a major recruitment device for building up a new beginners' class in the fall.

August also brings a pot luck at Bill and Michael's. Details to come, and you better be there! It will also be a pool party—dress or undress accordingly.

One down spot—at the Freedom Fair in McKinley Park in June (which was fun), more than one Club member came up to me and asked, "Why aren't you guys on the program to perform?"

@#%%& YOU GUYS?!

There were enough Club members wandering around the Fair to have put together at least two squares during the day, yet few had been willing to dance (I had gotten five names previously). Folks, this Club is not "YOU GUYS"; it is US. I was not amused by that response in the Park. Let's reconsider

this—we need to work TOGETHER!! (There, I feel better now, and some people ought to feel a teensy bit chagrined.) My thanks to those who did previously commit.

To end on an "up" note—I hear that "Peel the Apple" was fantastic! Those that went have some great tales to tell. I, for one, cannot wait! Welcome back you folks, and tell, tell, TELL. (I was in Oregon, where, ironically, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus was performing a joint concert with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus (not the ONLY reason I was there, however) and that, too, was fantastic. . . . One New Yorker was heard to say, however, "If I see one more tree, I'm going to scream!" Well, the Pacific Northwest is green. . .

Anyway, I'll sign off now. . . not as brief as I'd hoped, but. . . Have a great Summer—join us to dance and start gearing up for a great new year!

See ya dancin'

—George



Editorial

George's comments about our club's lack of participation in the Freedom Fair raises an issue that periodically needs to be discussed: club spirit.

Membership in a club entails certain responsibilities and a commitment. Responsibilities include attendance at club nights and dance nights, payment of dues on time, and active participation in club events such as pot lucks, hoe-downs, and workshops. Commitment, however, involves less well-defined actions and attitudes, actions such as participation in promotional events like dancing at the Freedom Fair, Pillars, and Faces to advertise the club and to recruit new members for the next year's Basic class. These actions represent a commitment to the development of the club.

The Board of Directors sets the tone, arranges the events, and promotes the activities. But it is up to the membership to give a club its soul, its spirit. Therefore, it is up to the membership, especially recent Mainstream members, to help promote the club, participate in its activities, encourage new people to join the club, help "angel" the new class next fall (gaining in the meantime more dancing experience), and start saving money for the Convention at Vancouver in April.

Some square dance clubs have very strict rules, such as miss class night twice and you are asked to quit the club or start over. Now, rules such as this are not our style; we hope our members would not miss meetings unless absolutely necessary. For the result we all hope for is a club that dances well, represents the gay community admirably, and has fun.

Fall Beginners Class

It is absolutely essential for the continued survival of the club that we have a new class of beginners each fall.

To provide these new members, all must work at recruiting friends and associates, but the onus really falls on the most recently graduated Mainstream class. The reason for this is that most of the rest of us who have been around for more than a couple of years have totally browbeaten as many of our friends as we possibly could (It took three years for Bob Koski to finally convince Bill and me to join).

Last year Bill and I did the following and suggest you try the same:

We sent a copy of our flyer regarding the Beginners Hoe-down in August to a long list of our friends. On it we added a personal note and followed up with a phone call. Then additional phone calls were made prior to the be-

Staff

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Editor, Bill McCrory

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the CCS board

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\$10 a month

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ginning class in September. (Four members of this year's class are friends of ours—so the idea must have some merit.)

We have plenty of flyers available—please take as many as you need. Give it some thought and get started on your friends as soon as possible.

And then you can be Angels for all your friends in the new class!

—Michael

Camping with Dennis and Jeff

There we stood, at the San Francisco Airport counter, with 8 bags for a 5 day trip. Damron Guide. . . Check. Cowboy Hat. . . Check. Stove. . . Check. Cast Iron frying pan. . . Check. Common sense? I knew we forgot something. Having endured months of Lucky Market groceries to get a reasonable fare, we were off to Washington DC, and then Rehoboth Beach for the Chesapeake Squares Fly-in. Some may think that our style of traveling is cheap, but perhaps that term is better left to describe one of Dameon's dates.

At any rate, we arrived at National Airport. God, what a sleazehole—I was totally disgusted! We promptly headed for the restrooms. After several delays, a Ninja Warrior bus driver, and endless lines, we finally got our Alamo rental car. (Their Alamo style could use some workshoping.) Off we were to our campground in Virginia. You can tell us Sacramento people—we are always ending up in the suburbs.

Thursday night, we western danced at the "Lost and Found." We were horrified to find it in a neighborhood that, the previous evening, we had specifically noted that we would not want to be lost in.

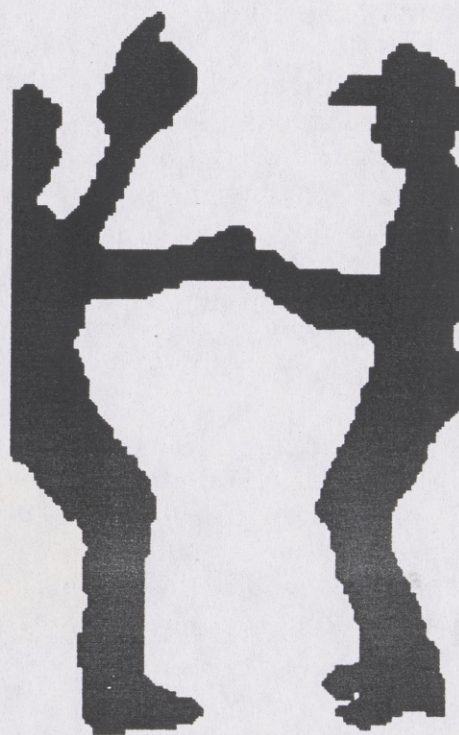
Freeman, the third fabulous creation representing California at the Rehoboth dance, later reassured us that we would not have been the first to have been mugged at the Lost and Found, as he himself had earned that distinction some years back. Could this be what those shirts mean that say "You can't be first, but you could be next"? We had a great time doing the two step, and many of the fly-in square dancers were there.

Friday we completed the two and one half hour drive to Rehoboth in an endless three and one half hours. Fearing that we'd miss the first tip, Dennis cooked a panic dinner in a mosquito infested swamp that Maryland claims is a state park. Utilizing our best square dancing rhythm, we circled between our bug refuge in the car and the second helpings on the picnic table. Miraculously, the dinner yuck failed to turn our studly western drag to total trash. Then on into Delaware.

We made the hotel less late than it might have been and hit the floor for the start of a really great dancing weekend. Ett and company of the Baltimore club did a great job. Caller Chris Phillips of the South Florida Mustangs had unbelievable talent! And his calling wasn't bad, either. The door prizes were endless. (Unlike Chris!) We both claimed one. And Dennis' golden shirt tips were

real class. (Of course. . . I felt better about my kerchief once I got the K-Mart tag off it.) The setting was great. Rehoboth Beach is a nice, not totally tacky beach town with a sizable visitorship with orientations similar to our own. I understand that there are some bars in town, although we never made it to them, having been wiped out on the floor (and from dancing, too!)

We seek out these dances, because when the energy is right, there is a synergistic high which is hard to experience in life. Whatever it is that makes this energy happen, it definitely happened on both Friday and Saturday nights. That magic feeling when you can do no wrong, even when you are doing things that you wouldn't know how to do if you



thought about it. Like the San Francisco Fly-in, the energy was there, and we had a great time.

Once again, a few weekends later, we threw our stunning drag de la Roy Rogers in the van and headed south towards the land of Danne-meyer and Dornan for yet another dance. (Coming from Doolittle land, we suppose we shouldn't criticize.) The Golden State Squares had a hoedown, which was fun for all. Being a small group, it lacked some of the energy of the larger gatherings, but this was made up for by some dazzling occurrences. One moment the picture of grace, we were all surprised when Robert dropped like a rock (ette?), landing on her sister's crinolines. She was up on her heels without missing a beat or breaking down the square... a real trooper. We all enjoyed stuffing ourselves with watermelon while watching the fireworks over the magic castle to the east and hearing caller Paul Water's account of his big night at the Corral in San Francisco during the Fly-in.

To sum up: Hoedowns and Fly-ins, whether put on by our club or by others, are well worth participating in. Dancing with new people is invigorating and improves your skills, and the better they are, the more fun you have.

—Dennis and Jeff

What Is IAGSDC?

IAGSDC is the International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. Its purpose is "to promote modern western square dancing, enhance the image of gay people, and provide an opportunity for the social and dancing interchange of individual members as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among the member clubs." Capital City Squares is a Full Member club (and one whose dues are paid up now). I was our club's delegate to this year's long (almost five hours!) executive board meeting.

At the meeting we voted on new Full Member clubs: Independence Squares in Philadelphia, Sequoia Ocean Waves in Eureka (Mary Ann and Lyn's new club), Sunburst Squares in Phoenix, and Finest City Squares in San Diego.

Several issues such as banner stealing, proliferation of fly-ins, and financial help to attend conventions were discussed, and officers for next year were elected.

Future Convention Sites:
1990 Vancouver BC
1991 Miami
1992 Albuquerque
1993 Seattle (IAGSDC's 10th Anniversary)
1994 Washington DC

Our association's name is best spelled out, letter by letter: I, A, G, S, D, C. Some people object to its being pronounced "Yagsuhdick"!

The Sacto Social Scene at the Sheraton Center

It is not known if Dameon ever did dance—but DID HE SHOP! Ask him about the new tie and belt—yes, he is our own rhinestone cowboy. . . . Bill and Michael and Rick and Rich all did their best to keep the Spike (NY's premier leather bar) solvent by being there almost every night after dancing (and the NY bars don't close until 4:00 am!). . . . What did Art and Jeff leave at Art's sister's place in Baltimore? . . . Jeff and Dennis, our Happy Campers, must have tired from the commute—we saw little of them. . . . It's a small world; Bill and Michael ran into Stan and Bill at the One Potato for brunch in the Village on the 4th of July. . . . It was fun to see Mary Ann and Lynn at the Trail In Dance, the first event of the weekend. Bill attended the IAGSDC Board meeting, where Lynn made the presentation to establish their new club in Eureka. . . . Bill and Michael did miss the Fun Badge tour (again!), but they did dance at the Statue of Liberty. —Michael

What Is IGGY?

IGGY is an informational resource for member clubs of the IAGSDC. In it are catalogued all the by-laws of member clubs, lists of club contacts for all the clubs, and lists of all clubs' educational and social activities. Capital City Squares is a contributing member of IGGY and has just paid its \$25 subscription fee. IGGY is a tremendously worthwhile and useful project. Just keeping the information up to date is a daunting task, but editor Scott Carey seems to be on top of it. The club has received the first sections of IGGY, and we will be receiving other parts and occasional updates. Ask George or Bill if you want to explore IGGY.

Random Notes from the Convention

- Propose we consider re-designing the club banner. Most of the other clubs have very elaborate and nicer looking banners, making ours look rather boring and drab. Perhaps we should have a contest during the fall, have the Board select the winner in December, and have the new banner ready for Vancouver in April.
- Sacramento should be represented at the Honky Tonk Queen contest at the next

convention. It is one of the highlights of each convention.

- A Leather Tip was organized in New York and was very successful (five full-leather Plus squares). This will probably be done again in Vancouver—so plan to bring your leather (It weighs no more than Dameon's rhinestones!).
- Wella Balsam, a Vancouver Honky Tonk Queen, (aka Bill Houghton in leather) published a cookbook (to which Stan and Bill of Prime 8's contributed). I've brought back ten copies to sell to club members for \$3 a piece (or more if you want) to be sent to the Vancouver Convention Committee for seed money.
- Freeman Stamper of Western Stars and the world (aka Stephanie Bradley), whom many of you know, was, in a very moving ceremony during the banquet, the honored recipient of the Golden Boot Award, the most prestigious award that IAGSDC can bestow. It is given to the one who has done the most for gay square dancing and best embodies the gay square dancing spirit. When you see him, be sure to say "Congratulations"—he is a worthy recipient and was truly surprised to be chosen.

—Michael

Beep Beep!

A special meeting to consider the possibility of linking all the clubs by computers and modems was organized by David Anderson from Desert Valley Squares (Phoenix) at the New York convention. I attended that meeting, and all of us are excited by the possibilities that telecommunications hold for us. We discussed six areas of information that could benefit from being "on line" to any and all IAGSDC clubs:

- Calendar--imagine the usefulness of a constantly updated list of all club's fly-ins, hoedowns, and retreats! Activity conflicts could be brought down to a minimum.
- Gay Callers Association—gay callers, club and professional, could keep in contact.
- Travel—Freeman Stamper's Travel Guide could be kept up to date.
- IGGY—this informational resource could be even more effective.
- IAGSDC Newsletter—communication to and among all clubs would be more timely.
- Convention—information about the Vancouver convention could be disseminated more quickly.

A centralized databank has been offered to IAGSDC by a Times Squares member in New York. Plans are going ahead at full speed for this very useful project.

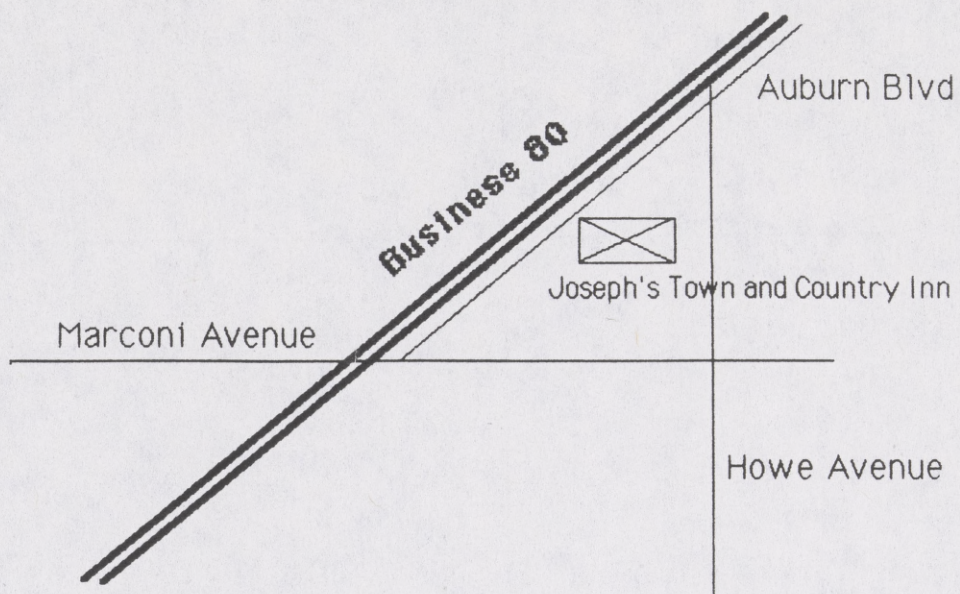
We regret to inform you that Gary Largent,
an original Capital City Squares member,
has died.

July 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Robin Alpenglow's Birthday
			Mel Silva's Birthday			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Western Stars Club Night \$3 7:30-9:30 Eureka Valley Rec Center Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	Summer Fun Dancing Joseph's T & C Bus 80 & Howe 7-9 Foggy City Club Night Live Oak School 7-9	12	Bill McCrory's Birthday	14	15
16	WSD Club Night \$3 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	Foggy City Club Night Live Oak School 7-9	19	20	Demonstration Dahce at Pillars Sierra Inn Bus 80 & Fulton 8.15	CCS/Prime 8's Pool Party Art Katz 4225 Hill Street Fair Oaks Village 2.30 - ?
23	WSD Club Night \$3 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	Summer Fun Dancing Joseph's 7-9 Foggy City Club Night Live Oak School 7-9	26	27	28	29
30	WSD Club Night \$4 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9					
31						

August 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Audrey Kellogg's Birthday			Geoduck VI Seattle	Geoduck VI Seattle
		1	2	3	4	5
Geoduck VI Seattle	WSD Club Night \$3 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	Summer Fun Dancing Joseph's 7-9 FCD Club Night Live Oak School 7-9				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	WSD Club Night \$3 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	FCD Club Night Live Oak School 7-9				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	WSD Club Night \$3 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	Summer Fun Night Joseph's 7-9 FCD Club Night Live Oak School 7-9			Vancouver BC Cruise & Fly-in	New Members Hoedown Clunie Center 7-9 Billie Parish's Birthday Vancouver Fly-in
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	WSD Club Night \$3 EVRC 7:30-9:30 Prime 8's Joseph's 7-9	FCD Club Night Live Oak School 7-9				
27	28	29	30	31		



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